



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Web Academy provides online courses

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster reminds students, parents, and school districts that the Wisconsin Web Academy (WWA) provides additional educational opportunities through online courses available to students throughout Wisconsin.

“Virtual education is an innovative reality in the 21st century and an effective educational strategy for some students,” said Burmaster. “I encourage students and parents who are seeking additional educational experiences to contact their local school district for the options available through the Wisconsin Web Academy.”

The WWA is the state-led, supplemental online education program made possible through state legislation adopted last April. The law requires the Department of Public Instruction to provide equitable access to high-quality online education by offering online courses to school districts, cooperative educational service agencies, charter schools, and private schools located in Wisconsin. The DPI has partnered with the Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 9 to operate the WWA.

During the fall 2008 semester, more than 140 districts used the WWA to provide online learning courses to more than 800 students in grades 6 through 12. At the high school level, the WWA offers more than 70 online courses in content areas such as English, social studies, science, business, and mathematics. Elective courses offered through WWA include foreign language, information technology, career planning, and life skills. The WWA also offers online test preparation programs for the ACT, SAT, and PSAT, and Advanced Placement courses in 20 subjects. The WWA provides middle school courses in science, mathematics, social studies, and language arts.

“The Wisconsin Web Academy is helping school districts provide more options and educational opportunities as they work to provide a quality education for all of their students,” said Burmaster. “The

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academy provides licensed educators to teach high-quality, interactive courses, all of which are aligned to Wisconsin's academic standards."

The WWA operates as a supplemental online course provider, which means that students taking courses through the academy remain enrolled in their home districts and receive credit for their WWA courses through their home district. Students wishing to enroll in a course that is not provided by their home school district and who may have looked at open enrollment to attend another district to satisfy their needs, can instead consider taking the course through WWA.

Students interested in taking courses through WWA can enroll year round through their local school districts and the Wisconsin Web Academy-Wisconsin Virtual School. Districts interested in offering courses through WWA should contact Dawn Nordine at CESA 9, (715) 453-2141, ext. 231, dnordine@cesa9.k12.wi.us.

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NOTES: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_12.pdf. More information about the Wisconsin Web Academy can be found at <http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org>.